

DIRECTOR M'ADOO
MOVES DEFINITELY
TO BRING RAILROADS
IN UNIFICATION

First Formal Order Issued
Under New Governmental
Control

DEMAND FOR WAGE
INCREASE IS DENIED
BY RAIL PRESIDENTS

Brotherhoods Will Wait Un-
til Situation Clears Be-
fore Bringing Pres-
sure to Bear

By the Associated Press
Washington, December 29.
Definite steps toward na-
tional unification of rail-
roads and improvement of
congested conditions were
taken today by Director
General McAdoo in the ap-
pointment of a temporary
staff and the issuing of his
first formal order directing
absolute pooling of all traf-
fic, common utilization of
terminals, rolling stock and
other facilities, hauling of
freight by the shortest
routes and retention of all
present officers.

Special instructions were issued for
the relief of the congestion in New
York and Chicago through pooling of
terminals and other traffic facilities,
and Alfred H. Smith, president of the
New York Central, was named tem-
porary special assistant to supervise
transportation in the trunk line ter-
ritory east of the Mississippi and north
of the Ohio rivers, where congestion
is greatest.

Walker A. Hines of New York, a rail-
road lawyer, and for many years a spe-
cial student of government operation,
was appointed assistant director general,
pending the formation of a permanent
staff. The interstate commerce commis-
sion was drafted for an immediate in-
vestigation by its inspectors of general
freight conditions on eastern trunk lines.

RAILROADS REFUSE WAGE
INCREASE ASKED BY MEN

While the director general was con-
fering today with a number of "road
heads, interstate commerce commis-
sioners and members of Congress, and
planning immediate action to remedy
the situation, it became known that
the demands of the four railway brother-
hoods for a 40 per cent wage increase
had been denied by the director gen-
eral. Consequently the labor men had
decided to postpone for probably 90 days
the presentation of their case to the gov-
ernment. It was thought probable that
President Wilson would take up the
labor situation in his address to Congress
next week.

CONGRESSIONAL AGENCIES
AT WORK ON SITUATION

Congressional agencies went to work
today on the new railroad situation.
The Senate interstate commerce com-
mittee, the House interstate commerce
committee, the Senate committee on
Chairman Hall of the interstate com-
merce commission, the statement that
the government's failure to centralize
priority administration was largely re-
sponsible for freight congestion.

Senator Cummins, ranking republican
member of the Senate interstate com-
merce committee, in a conference with
Mr. McAdoo, expressed the opinion that
legislation to prescribe the basis of gov-
ernment compensation to the roads,
would be passed speedily, though not
without some opposition to the plan.
The suggestion of guaranteeing to the
companies the average earnings for the
last three years.

RAILROAD WAR BOARD
OFFERS SUGGESTIONS

The railroad war board, whose services
have been solicited temporarily by the
government, today offered suggestions.

(Continued on Page Nine)

NATCHEZ STREET CAR
SERVICE CURTAILED

Management Announces That All
But One Line Will Be Discon-
tinued to Save Coal

Natchez, Miss., December 29.—An-
nouncement was made here tonight
by the Southern Railway and Light
company that beginning January 1 all
street car service in Natchez with the
exception of one line would be dis-
continued indefinitely. The plan, it was
said, was decided on in accordance
with recommendations of the federal
fuel administration to conserve coal
consumption.

ROTOGRAVURE IS
DELAYED EN ROUTE

The Age-Herald regrets to an-
nounce that the Roto Gravure Sec-
tion did not reach Birmingham in
time to appear with today's issue.

This section is printed in Bos-
ton on the joint roto gravure
presses of The Age-Herald and the
Boston Herald, and today's issue
was shipped from Boston a week
ago yesterday. The boat was two
days late in reaching Savannah
and congested traffic conditions
made it impossible to get the sec-
tion here last night. Traffic offi-
cials have spent the past two days
trying to expedite the shipment by
telegraph and telephone, but it
was found impossible to get them
to Birmingham even by express. A
double Roto Gravure section
will appear with next Sunday's
Age-Herald.

13 PERSONS ARE
KILLED IN ENEMY
AIR RAID ON CITY
OF PADUA, ITALY

Report From Rome Says
Sixty Others Were
Wounded

SNOW IS FALLING
THROUGHOUT FRANCE;
ACTIVITY IN FLANDERS

British Airmen Bring Down
Thirteen Hostile Ma-
chines on French
Front

COLD IN FRANCE
Paris, December 29.—Snow is con-
tinuing to fall heavily virtually
throughout France. Even in the
extreme south, in the regions of Tou-
louse, Bayonne and Toulon, a snow-
storm is in progress. The snowfall
in the Vosges was particularly
heavy and the temperature in that
district has dropped below zero. All
railway communication has been de-
layed by the storm.

By the Associated Press
Rome, December 29.—

Thirteen persons were killed
and 60 others injured when
the open city of Padua, in
northern Italy, was bombed
by enemy aviators last
night, the war office an-
nounced today. Treviso,
Montebelluna and Castel-
franco were also attacked.

The are treasures in the densely
populated section of Padua, where
eight bombs were dropped, were not
damaged.

The text of the official statement on
the campaign reads:
"On the whole front there was the
usual harassing fire, as well as recir-
cual patrol activity in the Lagarina
valley and Valterzo. Raids attempted
against Costalunga and Monte Melago
on the Asiago plateau were repulsed
and a few prisoners captured. On the
Piave Vecchia some prisoners were
taken in a reconnaissance raid.

"Yesterday evening enemy airmen,
through their innate barbarian im-
pulses, which were revived by the de-
fect they suffered December 26 at Tre-
viso, bombed inhabited parts of Tre-
viso, Monte Bellino, Castel Franco and
Padua, all open cities. In the center
of Padua where the population is dense-
st and the finest monuments numerous,
eight bombs were dropped, killing 13
persons and wounding 60. There were
only six soldiers among the casualties,
which for the most part were women
and children. No monument was dam-
aged.

"In the other cities there were no
casualties and virtually no damage."

VICTORY IN PALESTINE

London, December 29.—The British
have made another considerable ad-
vance in the neighborhood of Jeru-
salem, the Turks having been beaten
back on a front of 13 miles.

BERLIN STATEMENT

Berlin, December 29.—An Italian at-
tack against the Austro-German po-
sition on the heights east of Monte Tom-
ba, broke down yesterday under the
fire of the Teutons, it was announced
officially today by the German war of-
fice.

The statement reads:
"Italian front.—An Italian attack
against the heights east of Monte Tom-
ba broke down under our fire.

"Front of Crown Prince Rupprecht
of Bavaria: Toward evening the artillery
activity increased in isolated sectors on
the Flanders front south of the Scarpe
and near Graincourt and Gonneville.
East of Nieuport and near Poelcapelle
several British reconnoitering attacks
broke down.

"Front of the German crown prince:
North of Courtecon our reconnoitering
detachments penetrated the French lines
and brought back several prisoners.
"Eastern theatre: Nothing new oc-
curred here.

BRITISH REPORT

London, December 29.—The official re-
port from Field Marshal Haig's head-
quarters tonight says:

"During the day the hostile artillery
has again shown considerable activity at
a number of points along our front, es-
pecially in the neighborhood of Hargi-
court, south and west of Lens and east
and northeast of Ypres.

"Aviation: Our airplanes dropped over
10 bombs on three enemy airbases
north of Lille. Seven hostile machines,
four of which fell inside our lines, were
brought down by our airplanes; two
others were driven down out of control,
while four others were shot down by our
guns, three falling within our lines.
Three of our machines are missing."

Protest Made Against
"Criminal Scrapping" of
Historical Documents

Philadelphia, December 29.—Protest
against "the criminal scrapping of val-
uable historical documents from federal
archives" to make room for other papers
in the present war emergency, was
voiced in resolutions adopted today at
the conference of the historical societies
meeting here as a part of the American
Historical society. It was suggested in
the resolutions that the Lincoln mem-
orial in Washington be made the tempo-
rary storehouse for present war records
and other valuable historical papers.

HIS HERITAGE

PRAISE AND NOT
CONDEMNATION FOR
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Probe Under Way by Com-
mittee Shows Wonderful
Achievement

ARMY ORGANIZATION
NOT ALTOGETHER BAD

Chairman Bent Holds That Much
Has Been Accomplished in
Spite of Faults

By HUGH W. ROBERTS
Washington, December 29.

(Special).—Without draw-
ing distinction between the
preparedness of the navy
and the army, the expedi-
tionary contingent of which
is able to approach the fir-
ing line only with big guns
lent by England and France,
Representative Oliver of
Alabama, chairman of the
subcommittee conducting in-
quiry into the department of
Secretary Daniels, said this
morning for The Age-Her-
ald:

"It is a fact that as a result of the
excellent preparedness achieved by
the navy that from our battleships
we have been able to lend guns to our
allies."

Further in compliment to the pre-
liminary work of the navy, Mr. Oliver
made statements which, in contrast
with developments resulting from sen-
atorial probe into the war department,
cannot but be encouraging to every
American citizen. These facts were de-
duced:

In the beginning the United States
had 200 ships. Now, exclusive of sub-
marine chasers, the United States has
1000.

With the exception of perishables,

(Continued on Page Two)

TODAY'S AGE-HERALD

SECTION A

1-Director McAdoo takes definite steps
to unify railroads.

Thirteen are killed in enemy air raid
on Italian city.

Navy department wins praise rather
than condemnation from congress-
sional probe.

Three British destroyers sunk.
Alabamian writes interestingly of
army life in France.

2-Alabama is facing greatest political
fight of history.

3-Editorial comment.

4-Ned Brace.

5-Robbery said to be motive of double
murder.

Birmingham to have fine school sys-
tem.

Prices on foodstuffs to be fixed this
week.

Hospital for contagious diseases pro-
posed.

6-Hervey writes of Stuart and Edmonds.
7-Letter from Mississippi capital.

8-Eighty per cent Guatemala City de-
molished.

9-Amusements.

10-Conscription of labor and mine con-
trol predicted.

SECTION B

1-Sports.

2-News of automobiles.

3-Society.

4-Carpenter's letter.

5-Dolly Dailyville.

6-Fashions.

7-Markets.

SECTION C

Comic supplement

Three British Destroyers
Are Reported Sunk Off
the Coast of Holland

Thirteen Officers and 180 Men Lost—This Is Said
to Have Been Cause of Displacing Jellicoe
as First Sea Lord—Week Passes Before
Official Statement Is Made

By the Associated Press
London, December 29.—Three British torpedo boat destroyers were sunk
through being struck by torpedoes or hitting a mine off the Dutch coast on
the night of December 22, with the loss of 13 officers and 180 men,
the admiralty announced today.

The statement reads:
"Three of our destroyers were mined
or torpedoed during foggy weather off
the Dutch coast on the night of Decem-
ber 22. A total of 13 officers and 180
men were lost."

London, December 29.—Whether cor-
rectly or not, the displacing of Admiral Sir
John Jellicoe as first sea lord is pop-
ularly believed to have been the direct
sequel of the loss of the three British

Story Is Told How 2
American Destroyers
Sank German U-Boat

Details of Exploit in November of the Fanning
and the Nicholson When Submarine Crew
Was Captured Given Out by Department
Following Report From Sims

Washington, December 29.—Full details of the destruction by an Amer-
ican destroyer of a German submarine and the capture of its crew, made
public today by the navy department show that the destroyers Fanning
and Nicholson were the warships engaged. The incident was reported No-
vember 24, but few facts were given.

The submarine was sunk, the navy
department's story of the affair indicates,
as it was preparing to attack a mer-
chant ship flotilla conveyed by the de-
stroyers.

Addresses of officers of the Fanning
as announced by the navy department
include:
Lieut. Walter O. Henry, care N. F.
Mallory, Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Chief
Pharmacist's Mate Elmer Harwell, Scotts
Hill, Tenn.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The navy department's full story of the
incident follows:

"At about 4:30 p. m., while escorting a
convoy, Coxswain David D. Loomis, look-
out of the Fanning, sighted a small per-
iscope some distance off the bow extend-
ing about a foot out of the water and
visible for only a few seconds.

The Fanning immediately headed for the spot
and about three minutes after the per-
iscope had been sighted dropped a depth
charge. The Nicholson also speeded to
the position of the submarine, which ap-
peared to be heading toward a merchant
vessel in the convoy, and dropped an-
other depth charge. At that moment

the submarine's conning tower appeared
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SHARPE NOW PUTS
BLAME ON COUNCIL
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Says This Body Caused De-
lay in Buying Clothing
Supplies

CONTRACT FOR PICKING
SCRAP INVESTIGATED

Senate Committee Inquiry Brings Out
Relations of Government Agent
and New York Sorting
Company Favored

By the Associated Press
Washington, December 29.—The Sen-
ate war inquiry committee today in-
vestigated further the cancelled scrap
uniform cloth picking contracts let by
the committee on supplies of the coun-
cil of national defense to the Base
Sorting company of New York, and un-
der which witnesses testified the com-
pany could have made excessive profits
aggregating several hundred thousand
dollars annually.

Charles Eisenman, vice chairman of
the committee, who approved the con-
tracts, and Samuel Kaplan, another
member of the committee, whose brother,
it was developed, is financially in-
terested in the company, will be sum-
moned to testify, it was announced,
in a further inquiry the committee pro-
poses to make. It was further de-
veloped today that Kaplan's brother is
treasurer of the company, owning a
Connecticut woolen mill commandeered
by the government.

PROTESTS MADE

Quartermaster General Sharpe testi-
fied that when the war department can-
celled the contracts last Thursday both
Eisenman and Kaplan protested. The
government, he explained, will take
over the work.

In concluding today his testimony re-
garding clothing and other army sup-
plies, General Sharpe placed responsi-
bility for delay in securing supplies of
wool for army clothing on the council
of national defense. The council's
committee, which had taken over the
question of wool supplies, the general
said, recommended use of shoddy in
making uniforms and delayed accept-
ing raw wool offered last April by Bos-
ton dealers. No large purchases were
made until September, after prices had
risen greatly, he said. Senator Weeks
told the committee he was reliably in-
formed that a loss of \$150,000,000 to
the government resulted.

TENTS IN PLENTY NOW

Replying to testimony yesterday of
commanders of Camps Bowie, Tex., and
Doniphan, Okla., that overcrowding of
tents and lack of winter clothing
caused deaths of many men in recent
disease epidemics, General Sharpe said
the authorities knew tents would be
short for the men suddenly called into
service, but that supplies now are am-
ple to reduce the tent quota from 12
to five men, as recommended by Sur-
geon General Gorgas.

Regarding lack of motor trucks for
training men at the cantonments, Gen-
eral Sharpe said the department's pol-
icy, not his own, is that trucks shall
not be supplied until the men go abroad.
Rolling kitchens and many other ve-
hicles, he also said, will not be fur-
nished until then, under present plans.
Committee members voiced dissatis-
faction with the plan which, they con-
tended, will press men from secur-
ing proper training.

SORT CONTRACT

Questioned on the cloth scrap con-
tracts General Sharpe said he esti-
mated that the contracts given the
sorting company at 16 cents a pound
would net the company \$100,000 an-
nually. Capt. A. E. Percelle, who in-
vestigated the contract, estimated the

company could have made excessive profits
aggregating several hundred thousand
dollars annually.

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ALABAMIAN WRITES
INTERESTINGLY OF
AN OFFICER'S LIFE
ON FRENCH FRONT

Leon C. Bradley of Age-
Herald Staff Gives Side-
lights and Glimpses

TELLS OF JOYS
AND DISCOMFORTS
IN FAR OFF LAND

News From Home and Tobacco
Seem to Be About Only Things
That Matter With Men Who
Are Winning the War

Leon C. Bradley, first lieutenant, U.
S. R., city editor of The Age-Herald,
now with the American expeditionary
forces in France, has written a very
interesting letter to one of his asso-
ciates on The Age-Herald in which,
without giving any military infor-
mation whatever, he presents some in-
cidents of the life of the boys in France
which show the conditions under which
they are now living.

The letter was written somewhere
in France on Thanksgiving Day and
reached Birmingham only yesterday.
Lieutenant Bradley writes as follows:

"IT IS A LONG, LONG WAY"

"This is a mighty long distance from
Birmingham, but it is Thanksgiving Day
here just the same. Loads of roast tur-
key with all the trimmings, and, of course,
"everything that's good." Of course, the
Frenchmen don't know what it is, all
about, but they know it must be some
grand occasion. Whether it is George
Washington's birthday, or the anniver-
sary of the discovery of America, they
can't quite decide. But, at any rate,
they are entering into the spirit of the
occasion. In honor of the occasion, the
French orderly has just come in to poke
up the fire and he left a bucket of al-
leged coal that will almost burn if prop-
erly alight by kerosene oil and constant
and diligent care.

"Quite a number of the officers here
had leave for this afternoon and night
to visit a large and fine nearby, but, since
I had no leave for this last week-end, I
had to "stick around" camp today. But
it is not half bad at that.

WONDERFUL DINNER

"We had a really wonderful dinner—
regular American food prepared by ex-
ceptionally capable French cooks. It is
neither raining or snowing (I know you
won't believe it, but we still have snow
when I say this), and we still have
enough fuel burning to keep our fires
going for two or three days more. No
chairs, not even French ones, no cast-
ettes, and no smoking tobacco are to be
had here, or in the nearby towns. Some-
times, however, as in some of the
places, and besides, we all have plenty of
the American weed on route from the
United States which we hope will soon
arrive.

"There is not much for me to tell you
about the life here. You know, I know
more about it than I do. At least, the
things I know which you do not would
probably not pass the censor, so I will
not bore